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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/997,023	11/30/2001	R. Sam Niedbala	044170-5034	6134

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EXAMINER

ALEXANDER, LYLE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1743

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/997,023

Applicant(s)

NIEDBALA ET AL.

Examiner

Lyle A. Alexander

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25, 46-52 and 64-67 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 46-52 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 5, 7, 12, 13 and 64-67 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 4, 6, 8-11 and 14-25 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/4/05.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

In light of the 8/4/05 interview summary, Applicants' requested clarification of several inconsistencies in the 5/17/05 final rejection. The Office regrets any inconvenience caused to Applicants'. A new final rejection below will supercede the 7/18/05 final rejection and resolve the above issues.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-2,5,7, 12-13 and 64-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Patel et al. or Bunce et al.

Patel et al. teach a device(10) that has ports(12) that permit fluid to the bottom of the device. There is a first piece of bibulous material(32),and a second piece of bibulous material(34) and a piece of liquid expandable material(22). When material(28) expands, materials(32) and (34) are in fluid contact with one another. Material(28) expands as a result of fluid through port mark(20). Material(28) has been read on the claimed "expandable collection member". Material(34) can contain a reagent for analysis of a reagent.

Bunce et al. teach many different configurations that read on the instant claims. Figure 4 is exemplary and teaches a liquid transfer device comprising a holding a portion (70d) having first and second ends, a retaining portion(32) attached to the holding portion, and expandable collection member(23d) having a first and second size and reagents(32d) to detect the analyte of interest.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-4,6, 8-11 and 14-25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 46-52 are allowed.

The 12/15/04 advisory action indicated the 12/1/04 remarks were convincing to overcome the rejections over Schmitz, Shapiro, Hydro and Magnussen et al. and indicated claims 6 and 10 would be objected to as containing allowable subject matter but dependent upon a rejected claim. The claims rejected by Schmitz, Shapiro, Hydro and Magnussen et al., that are not rejected by the art of record, are 3,8,14-25 and 46-52. These claims contain allowable subject matter as they are no longer rejected by art. The 6/1/04 final rejection indicated claims 4,9 and 11 would be objected to as containing allowable subject matter but dependent upon a rejected claim.

This final Office action reflects all of the subject matter previous indication as allowable in the 6/1/04 and the 12/17/04 Office actions and includes the subject matter that is no longer rejected by the art of record as indicated in the 12/17/05 Advisory action.

Conclusion

This is a RCE of applicant's earlier Application No. 09997,023. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in

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this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no, however, event will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lyle A Alexander whose telephone number is 571-272-1254. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lyle A Alexander
Primary Examiner
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lyle A. Alexander', written over a horizontal line.